Not Judging by Looks: assembly script

At a glance

Story: Barnaby Digs Deep **For:** Reception and Key Stage 1 (ages 4–7) **Time:** 10–15 mins
You need: the PowerPoint. The same script is in its speaker notes. You don't need any props.
Links: Relationships and health education (primary): respectful, kind relationships; caring friendships. EYFS Personal, Social and Emotional Development: Building Relationships.

1. Welcome	Welcome, everybody. Today's assembly is about not judging people by how they look. We're going to hear a story from Thistledown Lane called "Barnaby Digs Deep".
2. Think about it	Ask: What are you good at? Let a few children share. Say: everybody is good at something, but you can't always tell what it is just by looking. Let's meet Barnaby.
3. The story, part 1	Read: Lilly the squirrel had lost her best acorn. She had buried it and put a little stone on top. But there were lots and lots of little stones! Which one was it?
4. The story, part 2	Read: Bramble, Moss and Lilly went to the woods. There were holes all over the ground. Out popped a badger with a muddy nose. His name was Barnaby.
5. The story, part 3	Read: "He's all muddy and messy," said Lilly. Barnaby heard her. His ears went down, and he hurried away.
6. The story, part 4	Read: Lilly felt bad. "I didn't mean it," she said. They went after him. Barnaby showed them his sett. That is a badger's house. He had dug it all by himself.
7. The story, part 5	Read: Barnaby helped them look. He sniffed under the hedge. "Dig, dig, diggity!" They all dug, and they found the acorn under the little stone.
8. The story, part 6	Read: Lilly said sorry to Barnaby. Now they were all a bit muddy! Lilly asked to keep her acorn safe in Barnaby's pebble room.

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9. Talk together	Give children half a minute with a partner for each question, then take a few answers. 1. What did Lilly say about Barnaby? How did he feel? Listen for: “He’s all muddy and messy.” His ears went down and he hurried away, so he was probably sad. 2. What was Barnaby very good at? Listen for: digging, and finding things under the ground. 3. What did Lilly do to put things right? Listen for: she went after him, and she said sorry.
10. Have a go	Pretend to hold a spade. Dig three times together: “Dig, dig, diggity!” Then turn to a partner and tell them one thing that they are good at.
11. Remember	Read it together, slowly. Ask the children to say it back to you.
12. Quiet moment	Invite everybody to sit still, close their eyes if they would like to, and think quietly for half a minute. You can add your own school’s prayer or reflection here.
13. This week	Set the challenge for the week. Find out something new about somebody you don’t know very well. You could ask in your next assembly who had a go.
14. Goodbye	Say goodbye. If you have time, watch the whole episode free at https://thistledownlane.co.uk/episode-barnaby-digs-deep (no adverts, no sign-in and no tracking).

The lesson

Don’t judge someone by how they look. Everybody is good at something.

If you have longer

Watch the whole episode free at **thistledownlane.co.uk/episode-barnaby-digs-deep** before the questions. There are no adverts, no sign-in and no tracking.

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